

## **ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION**

An illicit discharge is any discharge to Fayette County's stormwater drainage system or state water that is not composed entirely of stormwater runoff. Fayette County's stormwater drainage system includes storm drain pipes under roads, curbs and gutters, inlets and catch basins, ditches and swales, culverts, outfalls, streams and receiving water bodies. This publicly-owned drainage system is commonly referred to as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System or MS4.

Stormwater runoff contains pollutants that can harm human health, degrade water quality and aquatic habitat, and impair ecosystem functions. Pollutants are conveyed through the County's MS4 to streams, lakes, and other receiving water bodies. Fayette County has jurisdiction over MS4s that are owned and maintained by Fayette County.

Pollutants of greatest concern in Fayette County are sediment, nutrients, and fecal coliform bacteria. Sediment from inadequate erosion control practices at construction sites often ends up in streams causing excessive channel erosion and impacts to fish communities. Runoff from fertilized lawns contributes excessive nutrients into water bodies that can lead to algal blooms and in extreme cases fish kills. Elevated fecal coliform levels impair water quality and can lead to restrictions on the use and enjoyment of streams, rivers and lakes in Fayette County.

### **EXEMPT ACTIVITIES**

- Waterline Flushing
- Landscape Irrigation
- Air Conditioning Condensate
- Fire-Fighting Flows
- Some Agricultural Operations
- NPDES Individual Permitted Discharges

**Please Report Suspicious Discharges to  
770-305-5410  
or  
[stormwater@fayettecountyga.gov](mailto:stormwater@fayettecountyga.gov)**